

to sell, standard commercial fishing (SCFL), retired standard commercial fishing licenses (RSCFL), shellfish licenses, menhaden licenses and land and sell licenses were used to determine the number of fishermen and vessels by place of residence. Data on the income and employment characteristics of coastal counties were obtained from the NCESC.

All landings data are reported as pounds or value<sup>1</sup>. Pounds are reported as whole weights. Values are reported as current and deflated and represent the ex-vessel value or the value of commercial landings received by fishermen from dealers. The deflated value accounts for changes in inflation over the years by deflating the current value back to a base year according to the Consumer Price Index, which measures inflation. In this study, deflated values are calculated using 1972 as the base year because this is the year in which the NCDMF began recording landings data. Therefore, a value of \$100 in 2001 has a deflated value of \$23.61.

Analysis of the landings includes a breakdown of weight and value by species, gear, and county. Landings of species focused on major species or species that are currently under a North Carolina state or national FMP or species under consideration for a North Carolina state FMP. Analysis of landings by gear type was determined by utilizing the first gear listed on the Trip Ticket, which is the primary gear utilized during any given trip. Three gears can be reported on an individual Trip Ticket. Analysis of the landings by county focused primarily on the coastal fishing counties and includes a detailed analysis of major species harvested and gears utilized for each individual county.

Trips and catch-per-unit effort (CPUE) statistics, along with landings data are reported for individual species and gear types going back to 1994. CPUE cannot be determined prior to 1994 because trip level data was not recorded until the Trip Ticket Program was implemented in 1994. CPUE was calculated by taking the total number of pounds landed and dividing by the total number of trips reporting landings of that species or gear. It is important to note here that this statistic takes all trips into account and therefore all trips are treated equally including those trips where the species landed was not necessarily the targeted species. The CPUE statistic is just a rough estimate of effort

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted here that due to rounding errors during the summarizing of the data that comparisons between tables and within tables might not match.